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# Introduction

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# Introduction

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- 1 This « concept » or « test » issue of the European Journal of American Studies gathers a series of presentations on the state of and problems posed by American Studies in a variety of European countries. As we endeavored to take advantage of the potential new dimension that might be given American Studies in Europe thanks to the generous hospitality of the « revues.org » website, it seemed fit to give Americanists and all readers interested in American Studies a general sense of the situation before the Journal develops its real character. It will, as time goes by and experience accumulates, fundamentally become what EAAS members want to make it.
- 2 This issue was not prepared by the editorial team that will soon be put in place. Having initiated this project with the unanimous support of the EAAS Board, what I have attempted to do by putting together this first ensemble, is to give everyone a sense of the possibilities offered, in the hope that, as soon as the editorial structure takes its functions, numerous contributions will be offered and find their place in this new, flexible publication. The desire to see this e-journal come into existence demanded immediate and rapid action. I take full responsibility for what might be construed in these pages as methodological biases or shortcomings even though absolutely no editorial « line » was recommended to the authors whose choice of format and often divergent views I take as the first effects of the freedom of thought and diversity of viewpoints this publication will always encourage.
- 3 So that the present collection of review essays should by no means be considered as illustrating or anticipating in any manner the editorial choices that may be made and directions taken by the team soon to be chosen by the European Association of American Studies. It merely aims at demonstrating the possibility of movement by walking and at extending readers an invitation to participate in this new adventure, to take advantage of this opportunity to make European research in American Studies more visible and more easily accessible.
- 4 On the basis of this initial « dossier », the revues.org website saw fit to give EJAS its definitive agreement and the journal can now take on what shape European Americanists think best to give it.

- 5 Finally, having reached this stage, I shall only remain on hand to help with the constitution of the editorial structure, make sure technical necessities and difficulties are dealt with and generally oversee a publication for which final responsibility will remain that of the board and officers of EAAS.
  - 6 This new tool is now in the hands of European Americanists. Let it help them formulate and define their specific approach to the study of the United States.
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